

I have been wary for a long time about the dangers to our democracy of media consolidation, but only recently seen a concrete example of this problem in action. Sinclair Broadcasting has decided to induce their stations to air a documentary that is very close to a campaign ad within a couple of weeks of a national election. They have refused to consider running a piece that is either equally critical of the other presidential candidate or one that is equally supportive of the candidate they are criticising.

As a citizen, I am aware that the public airwaves are our communal property and do not belong to corporations. Broadcasters like Sinclair operate over this medium at the pleasure of the public, in whose interest they are required by law to operate. I cite the above as a serious breach of their legal duty and strongly feel that this injustice will be served by no less than the FCC failing to renew their broadcast license.

Though permitting excessive concentration of

media ownership is not a good idea, in the present regulatory climate where this permitted, it is essential that the FCC exercise its statutory powers during license renewal procedures to address abuses like that currently being committed by Sinclair.

Thank you for accepting this comment into the record for the future proceedings concerning the renewal of the Sinclair Broadcasting license renewal.